CHAPTER XVIII

THE "FORMIDABLE LEADER"

IT may be doubted whether any well-known revolutionary leader of modern times died more thoroughly discredited at home and abroad than Dr. Sun Yat-sen ; or whether in any other part of the world, at any time in history, a man more unworthy has been canonized by millions of his fellow countrymen. He had completely alienated the sympathies of those who had been his most persistent and generous supporters—the overseas Chinese merchants — by his destructiveness and his ruthlessness. Most of the bourgeoisie in Canton were still mourning, at the time of his death, for relatives and friends who had been slaughtered by his "Reds" in the Saikuan massacre of October, 1924. During his short stay in the North he was treated with ill-concealed hostility and contempt by the militarists and politicians in power at the Capital. They ignored or openly denounced his advice and his policies, and shewed themselves too shrewd to become the victims of the conspiracy that he was hatching with the "Christian General[1]" for another *coup.* Such adherents as he still retained were to be found chiefly among the student classes, and the Trade Unions, which owed their inception to the communists. It is safe to assert that had he not been compelled to take to his bed with a fatal illness, soon after reaching

Tientsin,